

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 8. This sheet, which includes Fig. 8, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-18 and 20-37 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 18, 36 and 37 are amended; Claims 2 and 19 are canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action the drawings were objected to; Claims 1, 3, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-7, 9, 18-24, 26, and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,443,252 to Morinaga in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,078,380 to Kitazawa; Claims 8 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morinaga in view of Kitazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,361,038 to Tada; Claims 10-13, 15, 16, 27-30, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morinaga in view of Kitazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,267,371 to Jessop in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,195 to Sagara; and Claims 14, 17, 31 and 34 were objected to.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Figure 8 is amended by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1, 18, 26 and 37 are amended by the present amendment. Additionally, disclosure related to the features of the “raising member” and “raising guide member” is set forth at least at page 8, lines 20-30 and pages 17 line 19 to page 18 line 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the applied art does not teach or suggest a raising and lowering member connected to the raising member and configured to raise and lower the stacking plate, with the raising and lowering member configured to raise the stacking plate to a predetermined position when the cassette is installed in the sheet feeding device, as recited in Claim 1 and similarly recited in Claims 18, 36 and 37.

Instead, Morinaga discloses a pressurizing lever 59 for rocking the intermediate plate 56 in an up and down direction. The pressurizing levers 59 are pivotally mounted on a shaft 59a disposed ahead of the front end of the intermediate plate 56. A pressurizing shaft 61 is disposed ahead of the pressurizing levers 59. Tension coil springs 63 and 65 are connected between the pressurizing shaft 61 and vertical arms 59c of the lever 59. In an example of when the sheet supply cassette 50 is dismounted from the sheet feeder 30, the pressurizing levers 59 are biased to be rotated around the shaft 59a in the clockwise direction by the weight of the horizontal arms 59b so that the horizontal arms 59b are laid substantially in the horizontal plane. Additionally, the forces of the compression coil spring 65a are selected so that when there is no sheet P on the intermediate plates 56, the weight of the intermediate plate is balanced with the spring forces during the pivotal movement of the plate.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for having the raising and lowering member configured to raise the stacking plate to a predetermined position when the cassette is installed in the sheet feeding device, as recited in the independent claims.

Kitazawa does not make up for the deficiencies of Morinaga discussed above. Specifically, Kitazawa merely discloses that the rotational direction of gear 307a determines whether the paper lifting member 85a or 85b will be moved upwardly. At first, it is assumed that gear 307a rotates in a counter clockwise direction, forcing second pulley gear 309a and pulley 311a to be rotated in a clockwise direction. In response to the clockwise rotation of pulley 311a and therefore its axis, second and third spring clutches 315b and 319b are rotated

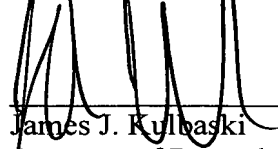
clockwise. As a result, the spring of third spring clutch 315b unwinds, while the spring of clutch 319b winds around pulley 311a. Therefore, pulley 311a causes clutch 315b to run idle while the fourth spring clutch 319b prevents fifth gear 317b from rotating. As a result, no power will be provided to gear 215b to move the paper lifting member 85b and only paper stored in lower cassette 19a will be moved towards the pickup roller. As such, detector 301a detects when the top sheet of paper stored in the cassette 19a is located in the first position. In response to a detection from the detector 301a, CPU 303 stops further rotation of the motor 305a as the top sheet is brought into contact with pickup roller 89a. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for having the raising and lowering member configured to raise the stacking plate to a predetermined position when the cassette is installed. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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